

Lakes of America where 40 million Americans get their daily drinking water. I am interested in the area of waste, fraud, and abuse; and I would like to talk about it.

In the area of veterans, we have a \$6 billion cut here at home for our veterans for their health care and other benefits, and yet what do we plan? To rebuild Iraq's national army.

So when it comes to waste, fraud, and abuse, I would hope my colleagues would join me on the floor and talk about some of the waste, the fraud, and the abuse that will go on in the \$60 billion reconstruction project the American taxpayers are being asked to pay and foot the bill for, while 3.1 million Americans have lost their jobs, 5 more million Americans have lost their health insurance, \$1 trillion worth of corporate assets are foreclosed on, and 5 million Americans have walked out of middle class into poverty; and that has been the net result over the last 3 years in economic stewardship.

□ 2000

#### THE COST TO AMERICANS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PORTER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise again to speak tonight on the issue of prescription drugs and what Americans pay relative to the rest of the industrialized world.

I want to call all Members' attention, if you have not seen this yet, get a copy of today's USA Today and read the lead story. And if you missed it today we are going to try and put this on our Web site, so Members may go to my Web site at Gil.house.gov; and we will have this on by sometime tomorrow afternoon.

And we will have the charts, because this is the most compelling article, I think, that I have read so far because it tells the story, it tells the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth in terms of what Americans pay and the sad and pathetic excuse by the FDA about how unsafe this is. It is just outrageous. It is the Food and Drug Administration.

This estimate is 1 million. We have had estimates that as many as 10 million Americans next year will buy their drugs from another country.

Now, what my vision is is not that people will buy their drugs from other countries, but once you open up markets and you begin to use tamper-proof, counterfeit-proof packaging, you will be able to buy those drugs from your local pharmacy and take advantage of market forces to bring the drug prices down.

As my colleague from Indiana pointed out earlier, the chart on the front talks about how much more Americans pay than the consumers in other coun-

tries. I have often said I am willing to subsidize the people in sub-Saharan Africa, I do not think we ought to have to subsidize the starving Swiss. It is time for them to pay their fair share for the cost of prescription drugs. The surest way to do that is to open up markets so you will see prices level around the world. And Americans will pay a lot less.

How much less? Well, the Swiss pay 58 percent less than American consumers. In Great Britain they pay 60 percent less. In Canada they pay 67 percent less than American consumers. In France they pay 102 percent less than American consumers. And in Italy, 112 percent. Now these are not backwater countries, ladies and gentlemen. These are industrialized countries that have regimens similar to ours.

If you go to the inside of USA Today it even gets better because they list some of the prices. I have shown my charts and I have had people say, Oh, well, that is from some goofy group, or, You cannot accept that. Well, these are not my charts anymore. These are charts that were done with research by USA Today.

When you look at the price differentials, it is exactly what my charts have shown. And that is, for example, on the drug Coumadin, which my 87-year-old father takes, it is a blood thinner, I have a package right here that we bought in Munich, Germany. It is Coumadin, it was developed at the University of Wisconsin Agricultural Schools as a rat poison, but Coumadin can be bought in Canada, 10 milligrams, 100 tablets, for \$43.58. That same package in the United States sells for \$99.99.

Tamoxifen, we have talked about that before here on the House floor. In the United States this particular package that they bought was \$61.99. The same package of the drug in Canada sells for \$9.04. That is more than six times as much.

Members, the time has come for us to take real action.

I want to congratulate others in the House who helped lead the fight so that at least the House now has gone on record that this is unacceptable. More importantly, we have sent a message not only to the pharmaceutical industry but to our own FDA. The FDA does not work for them; they work for us. It is time for the Senate, the Members in the other body to do the same thing, to send the message that the status quo is not acceptable.

Americans are voting with their feet. They are voting with their feet to buy prescription drugs. But remember, Members, next November they are going to vote for us or our opponents based on how we voted on issues like whether or not we will have affordable drugs here in the United States of America.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. May I remind Members that it is not in order to encourage the other House to take a certain action.

#### THE COST OF REBUILDING IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, well, we heard some amusing speeches earlier about the new Washington Waste Watchers, the gentleman from Texas and some other Republican over there. I guess that their vision does not extend too far.

First of all, the Republicans control the White House, every agency of the Federal Government, the House and the Senate. If there is waste, fraud and abuse, well then, they should take care of it. But they are too busy asking the American people to borrow \$87 billion to build Iraq in the vision of the neoconservatives in the White House that put this failed policy on us and pursuing this adventure.

Right here, here it is. The gold-plated guide to war profiteering in Iraq, otherwise known as the Coalition Provisional Authority Request to Rehabilitate and Reconstruct Iraq. Most of it has nothing to do with reconstructing Iraq or war damage that we caused.

Now, there is an argument that could be made that we should repair war damage. But these are things that the Iraqis never had, they have not had ever. We are talking about, well, they have 50-year-old steam boilers, so we have got to spend \$6 billion on their electric grid. Guess what? The lights are blinking out here in the eastern United States and on my coast a couple of summers ago, the West Coast, because we are underinvesting here.

The President can ask to borrow \$6 billion not only to rebuild the little bit of damage we did, but to give them a state-of-the-art system. The American people will pay for that for 30 years. How much is he asking to invest in the United States of America? A big goose egg.

Yeah, I guess the eye on Waste Watchers on Washington does not go to waste watchers in the war profiteering and the rebuilding of Iraq.

Let us take up a couple of other subjects. \$1 billion will be borrowed by the American people at the request of the President and Republican Congress to train the police in Iraq. Certainly and arguably, we should have a trained police force. But it is extraordinarily expensive because they say, Well, first off, they have to build a facility to train them outside the country. They cannot train them in Iraq.

The French, they offered to train the Iraqi police in Iraq for free. But, God forbid, those French, we should accept anything from them. They are a lot